Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 05 JUL 2006

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 BANGKO 08957 161254Z

47
ACTION EA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 PM-03 H-02 INR-07 L-02 NSAE-00

NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 SSO-00 NSCE-00 INRE-00

USIE-00 CU-02 /051 W
---------- 054351
O 161131Z MAY 75
FM AMEMBASSY BANGKOK
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 4304
INFO DOD WASHDC IMMEDIATE
CINCPAC HONOLULU IMMEDIATE
USSAG NAKHON PHANOM IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY VIENTIANE

C O N F I D E N T I A L BANGKOK 8957

CINCPAC ALSO FOR POLAD

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PFOR, TH, US
SUBJECT: FURTHER THAI REACTIONS TO THE MAYAGUEZ INCIDENT

REF: A. BANGKOK 8862, B. BANGKOK 8899

BEGIN SUMMARY: THE CABINET MET LATE ON MAY 16 TO DECIDE WHAT ACTION THE RTG WILL TAKE AGAINST THE U.S. IN RETALIATION FOR THE U.S. REFUSAL TO HEED THE RTG DEMAND THAT WE TAKE NO MILITARY ACTION AGAINST CAMBODIA FROM BASES IN THAILAND. TWO STUDENT DEMONSTRATIONS PROTESTING THE U.S. ACTION TOOK PLACE IN FRONT OF THE EMBASSY MAY 16. THE PRESS, POLITICAL PARTIES, AND OPINION LEADERS CONTINUE TO REACT STRONGLY AGAINST THE U.S. ACTION. END SUMMARY.

1. PRIME MINISTER KHUKRIT PRAMOT TOLD NEWSMEN LATE MAY 15 (BANGKOK 8945) THAT HE WOULD DECIDE ON MEASURES TO RETALIATE AGAINST THE U.S. USE OF BASES IN THAILAND FOR MILITARY ACTION AGAINST CAMBODIA AFTER HE HAD MET WITH FOREIGN MINISTER CHATCHAI CHUNHAWAN. CHATCHAI RETURNED FROM AN ASEAN MEETING IN KUALA LUMPUR MAY 16. THE CABINET WAS STILL MEETING
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 BANGKO 08957 161254Z

AS OF 1730 MAY 16 TO DISCUSS THE RTG RESPONSE. THE LOCAL

Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 05 JUL 2006

Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 05 JUL 2006

PRESS QUOTES DEFENSE MINISTER (AND DEPUTY PM) PRAMAN ADIREKSAN AS SAYING THAT THE U.S. ACTION WAS NOT A VIOLATION OF THAI SOVEREIGNTY, BUT ONLY A BREACH OF POLITICAL ETIQUETTE. KHUKRIT ANGRILY BLAMED THE PRESS FOR ATTEMPTING TO DIVIDE THE CABINET.

2. THE "BANGKOK WORLD" OF MAY 16 REPORTS THAT KHUKRIT WAS FURIOUS UPON RECEIVING A REPORT THAT A U.S. STATE DEPARTMENT SOURCE SAID THAT THAILAND KNEW ALL ALONG ABOUT THE MOVEMENT OF MARINES TO UTAPAO, AND THAT THE RTG DID NOT REALLY MEAN THE PROTEST IT WAS MAKING. THE PRESS ALSO REPORTS THAT THE MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS HAS PROPOSED THREE MEASURES IN RETALIATION FOR THE U.S. ACTION: THE IMMEDIATE RECALL OF THE THAI AMBASSADOR TO THE UNITED STATES; A CIRCULAR NOTE TO EMBASSIES IN THAILAND VOICING THE GOVERNMENT'S OPPOSITION TO THE U.S. ACTION; AND THE IMMEDIATE WITHDRAWAL OF ALL AMERICAN TROOPS IN THAILAND.

3. APPROXIMATELY 20 STUDENTS OF THE "UNITED FRONT TO OUST IMPERIALIST AMERICA" FROM KASETSAT UNIVERSITY DEMONSTRATED AGAINST THE U.S. ACTION IN FRONT OF THE EMBASSY AT 1115 MAY 16, AND DEMANDED THAT THE U.S. LEAVE THAILAND. THEY HUNG POSTERS AND DISTRIBUTED LEAFLETS DENOUNCING THE U.S. ACTION BEFORE DISPERSING. A SECOND GROUP OF APPROXIMATELY 45 STUDENTS, REPRESENTING THE STUDENT CENTER OF THAILAND, AND THE NATIONAL ANTI-DICTATOR UNITED FRONT DEMONSTRATED IN FRONT OF THE EMBASSY AT 1400 MAY 16. AFTER MAKING ANTI-AMERICAN SPEECHES THEY PRESENTED TO AN EMBASSY OFFICER A LETTER TO THE PRESIDENT WHICH SAID THAT THE U.S. MUST WITHIN 24 HOURS OFFICIALLY APOLOGIZE TO THE THAI PEOPLE AND GUARANTEE THAT IT WILL NOT PERMIT FURTHER VIOLATIONS OF THAI SOVEREIGNTY. AFTER PRESENTING THE LETTER, THE DEMONSTRATORS DEPARTED AT 1440, BUT PROMISED ANOTHER DEMONSTRATION MAY 17.

4. EDITORIAL COMMENT IN THE LOCAL PRESS MAY 16 CONTINUED TO DENOUNCE THE U.S. ACTION. KHAISAENG SUKSAI, DEPUTY LEADER OF THE SOCIALIST PARTY, ASKED HOUSE CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 03 BANGKO 08957 161254Z

SPEAKER PRASIT KANCHANAWAT TO RECONVENE THE LOWER HOUSE FOR A SPECIAL SESSION TO CONSIDER THE ISSUE. DR. PRIDI KASEMSAP, DEAN OF THE THAMMASAT UNIVERSITY FACULTY OF LAW, SAID THAT THE U.S. CANNOT EXPECT TO REGAIN THE CONFIDENCE AND RESPECT OF PEOPLE IN THIS AREA THROUGH ACTS OF DESPERATION AND A SHOW OF FORCE. THE FACULTY COUNCIL OF THAMMASAT UNIVERSIITY ISSUED A STATEMENT CONDEMNING THE U.S. ACTION AS A VIOLATION OF THAI SOVEREIGNTY, AND

Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 05 JUL 2006

Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 05 JUL 2006

AN ACT WHICH COULD DRAG THAILAND INTO THE DISPUTE BETWEEN
THE UNITED STATES AND CAMBODIA.

5. KASEM CHATIKAWANIT, DIRECTOR GENERAL OF THE
ELECTRICITY GENERATING AUTHORITY OF THAILAND, TOLD THE
COMMERCIAL ATTACHE MAY 16 THAT THE DUSIT 99 GROUP - AN
INFLUENTIAL GROUPING OF CONSERVATIVE MEMBERS OF THE
NATIONAL LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY BEFORE JANUARY 1975 -
HAD MET WITH THE MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS YESTERDAY.
THEY PROPOSED THAT U.S. TROOPS BE WITHDRAWN
IMMEDIATELY.

6. COMMENT: THE MARINE WITHDRAWAL BEFORE FIRST LIGHT
MAY 16 WAS A HELPFUL STEP. DEFUSING THAI GOVERNMENT AND
PUBLIC OPINION WILL BE LESS SMOOTH.
WHITEHOUSE

CONFIDENTIAL

NNN

Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 05 JUL 2006

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: TROOP DEPLOYMENT, SOVEREIGNTY, PUBLIC DEMONSTRATIONS, MAYAGUEZ SS, MILITARY BASES, GOVERNMENT REACTIONS, POLITICAL SITUATION
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 16 MAY 1975
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: ellisoob
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1975BANGKO08957
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D750172-0835
From: BANGKOK
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1975/newtext/t19750542/aaaablns.tel
Line Count: 131
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION EA
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 75 BANGKOK 8862, 75 BANGKOK 8899
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: ellisoob
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 21 JUL 2003
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <21 JUL 2003 by CunninFX>; APPROVED <18 NOV 2003 by ellisoob>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
05 JUL 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: FURTHER THAI REACTIONS TO THE MAYAGUEZ INCIDENT
TAGS: PFOR, TH, US, CB
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 05 JUL 2006